

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 27, 2006, Claims 21-80 were pending in the application with Claims 30-33, 36-44, and 46-61 being withdrawn as non-elected claims in response to a previous restriction requirement and species election. Therefore, Claims 21-29, 34-35, 45, and 62-80 were pending for consideration. Of these claims, the Examiner rejected Claims 26-27 and 34-35 as allegedly being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by U.S. Patent No. 5,224,927 (hereinafter "Tapper") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,253 (hereinafter "Chang"). In addition, Claims 28-29 were objected to and Claims 21-25, 45, and 62-80 were allowed.

With the present amendment, Claims 26-27, 30-44, and 46-61 have been canceled. Additionally, Claim 28 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claim 26, as suggested by the Examiner. Because of this amendment, Claim 29 no longer depends from a rejected base claim, and should be in condition for allowance along with Claim 28. It is, however, to be understood that such cancellations and amendments have been made for the sake of expediting the prosecution of the present matter and without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position. Applicants specifically reserve the right to present any canceled or compromised claim in a future related patent application. Accordingly, the Applicants assert that all of the claims rejected in the present Office Action under § 103(a) have been canceled, and that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

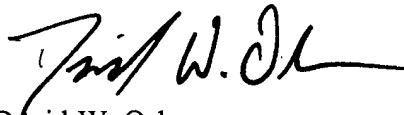
The Applicants wish to express appreciation to the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 21-25, 45, and 62-80. All rejected claims have been canceled, and the Applicants respectfully request that Claims 21-25, 28-29, 45, and 62-80 be allowed to issue. If any impediment to the entry of the present amendment and allowance of the claims in view thereof remains which could be removed during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Please charge any additional fees except for Issue Fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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